

THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: THE STORIES OF KENTUCKY



WHAT'S MY STORY?

I WITNESSED THE END OF ONGOING CONFLICTS BETWEEN MINERS AND MINE OWNERS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE 1930S.

At issue was Harlan County miners' right to unionize. Decade-long violence came to a head on July 12, 1939, when members of the Kentucky National Guard had a shootout with striking miners. The National Guard had arrived in mid-May, having been sent by Gov. Keen Johnson to "keep the peace" between coal companies and striking workers. A member of the 123rd cavalry carried this nightstick, which has a horse's head, a sergeant's chevron and the word "HG123" carved in it. The Guard left in October after the strike ended.

Access this object (1976.108.04) and more than 100,000 others through the Kentucky Historical Society's [online object catalog](#) and learn the stories of Kentucky.



100 W. Broadway, Frankfort
502-564-1792 | history.ky.gov

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future. KHS, an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian affiliate.